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Music Library Association
New England Chapter

Newsletter no. 70 June 1986

Published quarterly in September, December, March and June. Address all correspondence concerning editorial matters to Dawn Thistle, Editor, c/o Music Library, College of the Holy Cross, 1 College St., Worcester, MA 01610. Inquiries concerning subscription and membership should be addressed to Tish Brennan, Secretary-Treasurer, 408 Benefit St., Providence, RI 02903. Institutional subscription: $5.00. Free to members. Regular Personal Membership: $4.00. Student and Retired Membership: $2.50. Membership year runs September to August.

~~~FALL MEETING~~~ ANNOUNCEMENT

On Saturday, October 25, 1986, the Chapter will meet at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, for our Fall meeting. Full details of the program as well as registration information will be published in the September issue of this Newsletter.

~~~REPORT OF THE~~~ SPRING MEETING

The Spring 1986 meeting was held on Saturday, April 5, in Northampton, Massachusetts. Chair by Carol Tatian of Brown University and the Vice-Chairperson/ Chair-Elect of the Chapter, the meeting opened with a session held in Sage Hall at Smith College. Ruth Mortimer, Assistant College Librarian and Curator of Rare Books at Smith, welcomed us. Three papers on music and musical life in Northampton followed. Gregory Hayes of the Mount Holyoke College piano faculty and a local free-lance writer introduced the topic with a talk on "Andrew Wright, Jenny Lind, and the Philippine Constabulary Band: Small-town musical life." He gave examples of religious, at-home, and formal music-making in the community, mentioned a number of well-known performers who visited Northampton, and discussed musical buildings, clubs, and local performing groups. Angela Sciotti Vincent, Art and Music Librarian of Forbes Library, the public library in Northampton, shared with us a brief history of that institution, entitling her talk: "Forbes Library: From C.A. Cutter to C.W. Mars." Two years after the massive Forbes building was erected in 1894, a separate art and music division was established, and the library was an early subscriber to many late 19th and early 20th century collected editions. It now contains 5,000 books on music, 25,000 scores, and 6,000 recordings. The final morning paper was delivered by Marlene Wong, Librarian of the Werner Josten Library at Smith College. She spoke briefly about the Music Department at Smith which was created six years after the 1871 founding of the college. Though her formal paper dealt primarily with the 19th century, she did touch upon the Baroque opera performances which took place at Smith around 1920 and mentioned the collection of 16th and 17th century vocal and instrumental music copied out in score format by Alfred Einstein.

The morning session was followed by a business meeting chaired by Linda Solow Blotner. Patricia Brennan, Treasurer, reported on the state of our finances and membership. Jean Morrow, reporting for the Archives Committee, stated that the committee has been collecting and organizing material and that it is the feeling of the members of the committee that the archives should be kept in the New England area and that the Board choose a permanent home for them and appoint a permanent Chapter Archivist. Ross Wood of the Publications Committee announced that approximately half of the new directories have been sold and that we have reached the financial break-even point.

The results of the chapter election were announced: Paula Matthews of Bates College will be the Vice-Chair/ Chair-Elect, and Pamela Juengling, University of Massachusetts, the new Member-at-Large. Ms. Blotner mentioned that tax-exempt status has been straightened out at the national level and that now chapters should be able to apply for a similar exemption. The question of whether some of the dues money collected by MLA should be turned over to the chapters has not been resolved. Two brochures (on MLA and on music librarianship) are being revised. The 1987 national meeting will take place the second week of February in Eugene, Oregon.

Following a pleasant luncheon, the Josten Library staff conducted tours of their facility including a brief demonstration of LS/2000, the OCLC on-line cataloguing system currently being put in place by Smith and the four other institutions in the Five-College consortium.

The afternoon session "Hot Library Topics" was chaired by Carol Tatian and covered the following subjects: Grants and Fund-raising, Student Assistants, Audio Facilities, Compact Discs, and Collection Development Policies. Linda Blotner discussed how to locate sources of money and the mechanics of grant-writing. She concluded her remarkes with examples of the kinds of projects that have been good candidates for outside funding: acquisitions, automation, cataloguing specific collections, concerts in the library. Sally Evans (Amherst College), in her talk on student assistants, spoke about the hiring process (job descriptions, application forms, and interviews), training (and retraining and communication), scheduling, evaluations, sample tasks and special projects, and social events. Carolyn Johnson (Connecticut College), limiting her talk to audio hardware, mentioned things to keep in mind when planning an audio facility (group vs. individual listening, taping, handicapped access, ease of maintenance, flexibility, storage, traffic flow, lighting) and, with respect to equipment, how to select it and possible ways to handle its maintenance and security. Pamela Juengling (University of Massachusetts) discussed both compact discs and CD players. With respect to the latter she mentioned aspects to inquire and think about: how are tracking and indexing handled? Do you require a headphone jack (and a volume control) for it? How much programmability do you want/need? Test machines before purchase (using a damaged disc to see how the machine copes). Turning to the discs themselves, she mentioned review sources, lists of CDs, vendors, storage racks and replacement jewel boxes. The final afternoon topic, collection development, was presented by Nina Davis-Millis (MIT), who offered some sources of information on the writing of a policy and brought us up-to-date on the work currently being done in this area by the national MLA Committee on Resources and Collection Development. This committee also plans to consider the question of assessment of collections. A collection development policy is important in order to: define what we do, explain what we do, and to defend what we do.

The day ended with a delightful sherry hour in the Calvin Coolidge Room of the Forbes Library.
-----Sally Evans, Amherst College

EDITOR'S NOTE: For those of you who are interested, a packet of the texts of the papers presented during the "Hot Library Topics" meeting will be available in July, free of charge. Simply write to me (Dawn Thistle, Music Library, Holy Cross College, 1 College St., Worcester, Ma. 01610) and I will be happy to send it on to you.

Jenny Lind

~~~REPORTS OF~~~ NATIONAL MEETINGS

RLG Music Program Committee:

The RLG Music Program Committee meeting which was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on 10 February 1986, focused on five agenda items: collection development, conspectus verification, shared cataloging, access to music information through RLIN, and public services. Each of the items had the following discussions:

Collection Development
--We want to determine that music being published in each subject area is being purchased by at least one RLG music library.
--In order to determine that, we are requesting approval from RLG to establish a Collection Development Subcommittee.
--The committee, if formed will begin its study by surveying RLG music library approval plans.

Conspectus Verification
--Some areas of the LC classification for music are so broad we need further analysis; i.e. collections, bibliographies, and biographies. We have not yet determined how to proceed.
--A library school student and a music librarian at SUNY Buffalo are going to do some statistical analysis of the music conspectus and the shelf list measurement.
--The findings of the collection development subcommittee will be reflected in the conspectus.

Shared Cataloging
--In the past we have participated by being responsible for a particular publisher (or label for sound recordings). We now want to extend to clearly defined subject areas, monographic series and analytics to collected editions.
--Cooperative cataloging for the Harvester microfilm series was discussed.

Access to Music Information through RLIN
--The Ira F. Brillian Center for Beethoven Studies would like to do an online Beethoven bibliography on RLIN and is writing a proposal.

Public Services
--A Music Program Bulletin Board is being created on RLIN.
--A patron access directory for RLIN is being created.
--The possibility of lending sound recordings is being considered.

Although this project is not sponsored by either RLG or MLA, an announcement was made at the committee meeting regarding five music libraries around the country that are going to be allowed to buy scores from publishers that are currently available only for rental. The library must agree that there will be tight control, i.e., no copying, and the scores won't circulate or be borrowed on ILL. The purpose of having the scores is so they are available to musicians in each area to view so they can determine whether or not they want to perform the music. If they do wish to perform it, they will have to rent a copy. The five libraries, which were selected so there will be regional representation, are Northwestern, NY Public, Florida State, USC, and Rice. A Boston library is also being sought to participate. This is considered a breakthrough with music publishers, and it is hoped it will promote the performance of contemporary music. We will make an announcement in the Newsletter when a Boston library is selected.
-----Carol Tatian (Brown University)

Music OCLC Users Group:

Fourteen New Englanders attended the annual MOUG meeting in Milwaukee, February 10-11, held jointly this year with the Music Library Association. Those in attendance at Plenary Session I heard detailed reports on two major developments at OCLC -- the Linked Systems Project and the Oxford Project. Separate literature about these projects is available from OCLC. Plenary Session II included a reexamination of the implementation of "AACR2 Five Years Later"; from the perspectives of catalog maintenance, automation and bibliographic instruction. A second discussion on "Music Librarianship and the Computer Professional" provided much encouragement and sound information to many librarians still grappling with the challenges of modern library technology.

Several New Englanders contributed to the success of this MOUG meeting through their participation. Dawn Thistle (Holy Cross) chaired the program committee, Jeffrey Rehbach (Middlebury College) and Susan Dearborn (CLSI) read papers at Plenary Session II and Sally Evans (Amherst College) and Jean Morrow (New England Conservatory) lead problem-sharing discussion groups. Among the newly elected officers is Pam Juengling (U. Massachusetts at Amherst) who has taken on the job of treasurer.

Special thanks were given at this meeting to Glenn Patton of OCLC. After several years as MOUG liaison with OCLC, Glenn is turning over this duty to Joan Schuitema so he can assume fully the responsibilities of his new position as Manager of the System Support and Training Section.

Detailed reports from this year's meeting are now appearing in MOUG Newsletters no. 29 and no. 30. The site for next year's meeting will be Eugene, Oregon, where MOUG will again convene jointly with MLA during the second week of February.
-----Jean Morrow (New England Conservatory)

<u>MLA Pre-Conference Workshop: "Linking Music and Culture: World Music Materials and the Music Library"</u>:

The MLA Pre-Conference Workshop, "Linking Music and Culture: World Music Materials and the Music Library" opened Tuesday evening, February 11, 1986 at the Hyatt Regency in Milwaukee, Wisconsin with addresses from two renowned ethnomusicologists, Carol Robertson (Maryland): "Fact and Value in the Documentation of World Music Materials and Traditions" and Bruno Nettl (Illinois): "Harmless Drudge Revisited: Is Definition Important?" Both speakers emphasized the uniqueness of each culture's musical behavior, but also the unity in diversity of musical cultures. During Western Art music's discriminatory reign, we have been losing sight of our musical present and of evolution by idolizing the past and ignoring the changing world.

The introductory session closed with a concert by Sotavento, a group of Central and South American musicians playing traditional Latin American instruments.

Wednesday's sessions included an overview of information resources in ethnomusicology (Joseph Hickerson, LC Archive of Folk Culture), collection development (Stephen Fry and Louise Spear, UCLA), and ethnomusicologist's perspective of needs in the music library (Lois Anderson, Wisconsin-Madison), subject headings and thesaurus control (Judith Kaufman, SUNY/Stonybrook), description and access using card and on-line catalogs (Ruth Tucker, UC/Berkeley), an ethnomusicologist's perspective on gaining access to materials for teaching and research (Ruth Stone, Indiana), major ethnomusicological archives and their holdings (Joseph Hickerson, LC Archive of Folk Culture), gaining access to archival materials online (Mary Russell, Middlebury and Laurel Sercombe, University of Washington), archives collection development (Anthony Seeger, Indiana), archives assessment (Jennifer Post, Middlebury) and library outreach (Gerald Johnson, Cleveland Children's Museum).
-----Pat Fisken (Dartmouth)

Music Library Association, 55th Annual Meeting:

The theme of this year's Music Library Association's annual meeting was "Linking past, present and future: the challenge for music libraries". The meeting was held in Milwaukee from February 12-15, 1986. Three of the general sessions are reported on below:

"Bibliographic links in music libraries"

The Linked Systems Project (LSP) was the focus of this session. Sally McCallum from LC spoke on the history of the linkage and standards for linkage which are emerging. She talked both about record retrieval and authority control.

Ed Glazier (RLG) spoke on how the linkage with LC will be much faster with the tape loading methods used now. The time gap between changes in the bibliographic records and the authority records from LC will be much less.

Joan Schuitema (OCLC) described some of the enhanced searches available with LS2000 modified software. For one thing, with no limit on the number of retrieved records in the authority file, Mozart and Bach are once again searchable.

The effect of the Gramm Rudman bill on LSP progress was gloomily mentioned in looking at the future.

"Linking subjects: is there a future for music thesauri?"

Debora Shaw (U. Illinois professor) began the session with "An introduction to the conceptual basis of thesauri" discussing theory of thesauri construction and various models. She gave examples of problems if the deductive approach is used (building from the top down), defined "literary warrant" and "user warrant", and discussed the relationship between "broader term" (BT), "narrower term" (NT), and "related term" (RT). Also, she cautioned any would-be thesaurus constructor to consider the need for future review and updating which she feels is the final responsibility of the creator of a thesaurus.

Pat Molholt (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) spoke on the impressive AAT (Art and Architecture Thesaurus) which has been in the planning since 1979.

In 1982 with a grant of $125,000 and a staff of two, the work began. To date, $1.6 million has been spent and there is now a staff of 12. The staff consists of 3 Ph.D. subject specialists, 5 M.A.s (2 librarians, 2 art specialists, and a liaison editor), 3 clerical staff and from 3-5 student assistants. The first edition, containing 100,000 terms, will be ready in about two years. The MLA has been considering the need for a music thesaurus for several years now. The AAT will be leaving not only the artifact of the AAT but the methodology and research on past thesaurus construction. Ms. Molholt says the first step is to set standards and write a "manual of construction".

Molholt's 9 rules for thesaurus construction:
1. Build off models existing and lists already constructed.
2. Get a sense of potential users and retrieval desired.
3. Define scope and hold fast to it.
4. Involve users early (scholars and laymen) and get feedback continually. Team a librarian with a subject specialist.
5. Never assume anything (including that the experts are right).
6. Don't judge and decide between conflicting definitions but mediate (let the 2 experts fight it out and reach a compromise).
7. Mix practitioners with theorists.
8. Learn to love compromise and detail.
9. Never finish--plan future maintenance and review.

Mark McKnight closed the session with "Toward a music thesaurus", touching on what has been done so far and some of the issues to be resolved, such as the desirability of pre- or post-coordinate manipulation of terms (eg. "piano sonata").

"Job interview--strategies for success (from the interviewer's perspective)"

Carolyn Rabson (Oberlin) led the session. Hiring student workers seemed to be of special interest to the audience. Detecting when a student is being dishonest in an interview (about hours to be worked or previous experience), rephrasing questions to ask the same thing twice, detecting the sloppy or inaccurate worker from the interview questions, or discovering and discouraging the "know-it-all" student who will try valiently but inaccurately to answer all music reference questions--these were a few of the situations discussed.

Woven through the fabric of the conference were many brief but enjoyable concerts including "An evening of ethnic folk music and dance" given at the Milwaukee Public Library, "After the ball: an evening with Charles K. Harris" (songwriter from Milwaukee), and "Concert by the Vocal Arts Consort of the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music" which sang Copland, Brahms, and a work by Roger Ruggeri entitled "A Paean", commissioned for and premiering at this MLA conference. The Milwaukee Public Library had a display of several hundred sheet music items from its collection. And finally, we were all given polka lessons and heard several polka bands while in Milwaukee. (Ein Prosit!)
-----Sarah Shaw (Brown University)

~~~PEOPLE~~~
IN THE NEWS

PATRICK MAXFIELD is the new cataloger at the New England Conservatory. Patrick had been Assistant Cataloger at the Conservatory since 1981.

After serving in this capacity for almost a year, JEAN MORROW has been appointed as Director of the New England Conservatory libraries.

CAROL TATIAN (Brown U.) received her M.A. in Musicology from the University of Pittsburgh in April, 1986.

MICHAEL OCHS and JOHN HOWARD (Harvard U.) will be presenting papers during sessions entitled "Lacunae in Existing Sources, Sources Lacking, Research Strategies" and "Enumerative and Descriptive Bibliography of Primary Sources", respectively, at the Conference on Music Bibliography, described more fully below.

PHIL YOUNGHOLM's address has changed. His new address is: 1117 Marquette Ave., 404, Minneapolis, MN 55403.

~~~UPCOMING EVENTS~~~

Conference on Music Bibliography, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, October 10-11, 1986.

The conference is sponsored by the School of Music and The University Library, Northwestern University, and is "funded in part by a grant from the NEH in conjunction with a joint meeting of the Midwest Chapters of the American Musicological Society and Music Library Association."

Sessions to be offered are: Enumerative and Descriptive Bibliography of Primary Sources; Bibliographic Instruction; Current Trends in Analytical and Descriptive Bibliography; Enumerative Bibliography of Secondary Sources; and Lacunae in Existing Sources, Sources Lacking, Research Strategies.

For registration and hotel information, contact: Richard D. Green, School of Music, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL 60201 [312-491-5431] or Karen Nagy, Music Library, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL 60201 [312-491-3297].

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Music Library Association/New England Chapter
Music Library
College of the Holy Cross
1 College Street
Worcester, MA 01610

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